

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 280

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor King University on the occasion of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is with great pleasure that this General Assembly recognizes a university that has established an outstanding academic reputation and significantly widened its outreach over the past 150 years; and

WHEREAS, one of the oldest and most respected private institutions of higher learning in the Southeast, King University in Bristol is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1867 as King College, the school takes its name from the Reverend James King, a prominent landowner and senior minister of the Presbyterian denomination in Northeast Tennessee, who donated land for the campus at a location where he had made his personal Christian commitment and continued to meditate on faith; and

WHEREAS, nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains a scant two miles from the center of Bristol, King University has produced nearly 12,000 graduates over the past 150 years at its beautiful 135-acre hilltop campus that is home to twenty-two structures; and

WHEREAS, after a decade of adding graduate programs, King College was renamed King University in 2013 to better reflect the complexity of the school's academic mission and its accomplishments on a national level; and

WHEREAS, accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, King University has more than doubled its enrollment during the past decade; and

WHEREAS, King University has three campuses (Bristol, Kingsport, and Knoxville) and ten satellite locations that host more than 2,800 students who are taught by 135 full-time faculty members in six academic schools at a student-teacher ratio of 14:1; and

WHEREAS, King University has been recognized as one of America's best regional universities by *U.S. News & World Report* for the past twenty-seven years and by *The Princeton Review* as one of the Southeast's best colleges for the past thirteen years; in 2017, King was recognized as one of the 25 best Christian colleges and universities in the South and one of the 50 most affordable Christian colleges and universities in the nation by Christian Universities Online; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, King first added graduate programs through its Center for Graduate and Professional Studies by offering Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Nursing, and Master of Education degrees; and

WHEREAS, the university launched its online studies program in 2002 to assist working adults in achieving their dream of earning a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2014, King began offering its first doctoral program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, which is firmly established as the terminal degree in nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, continuing its tradition of serving its community, King University began offering a select set of collegiate courses, free of charge, to adults age sixty and older during the fall of 2015; adult learners may now audit certain non-credit courses, ranging in scope from British Romanticism to World Politics, at the school's main campus in Bristol through the Lifelong Learning program; and

WHEREAS, beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, King University and the Tickle College of Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), will collaboratively offer a dual degree program that combines the diverse strengths of a liberal arts curriculum with targeted technical studies in engineering for students seeking to diversify their education; upon completion of the program, students will have earned two undergraduate degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Mathematics from King and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in their area of specialization from UTK; and

WHEREAS, for 150 years, King University has shone as a beacon of excellence in both academic performance and the collegiate experience, and the school should be recognized on this momentous occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with President Alexander W. Whitaker IV and the administration, faculty, staff, student body, alumni, and citizens of the Tri-Cities community in celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King University, an august institution of higher learning that has remained true to its Christian mission while growing to meet the needs of the students of today and tomorrow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.